

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 CIEP-02 TRSE-00

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 SCEM-02 INT-08 NIC-01 DRC-01 /220 W

----- 099606

R 280759Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6777

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 6083

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, PL

SUBJECT: POLAND ANNOUNCES MEASURES TO REDUCE LIQUID FUEL

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CONSUMPTION

REF: STATE 224536

1. SUMMARY. AS REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS, CHAIRMAN OF THE POLISH

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON NOVEMBER 24 ANNOUNCED MEASURES TO TAKE EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 1973, TO CONSERVE LIQUID FUELS. NOTING THAT POLAND MUST DEPEND UPON WORLD MARKET FOR PART OF ITS PETROLEUM SUPPLIES, ESPECIALLY GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL, PRESS POINTED OUT THAT WORLD PRICES OF THESE PRODUCTS HAVE RISEN SEVERAL TIMES IN RECENT WEEKS AND SIMULTANEOUSLY SUPPLIES HAVE BECOME MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. FACED WITH PROBLEMS OF RISING COST AND SHORT SUPPLY ON WORLD MARKET, GOP HAS ADOPTED SERIES OF REGULATIONS DIRECTED, FOR MOMENT AT LEAST, PRIMARILY AT USERS OF OFFICIAL VEHICLES. POLAND AT PRESENT REMAINS ALMOST TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON SOVIETS FOR CRUDE OIL SUPPLIES, ALTHOUGH POLES HAVE BEGUN TO NEGOTIATE SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY CONTRACTS IN MIDDLE EAST. WHILE RESPONSIBLE POLISH OFFICIAL HAS ASSERTED TO EMBASSIES THAT SOVIET CRUDE PRICE IS FIXED, NEW FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES SEEM AT MINIMUM TO BE REFLECTION OF POLISH CONCERN OVER FUTURE OIL SUPPLIES. END SUMMARY

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ACCORDING TO ARTICLES APPEARING IN "TRYBUNA LUDU" AND "ZYCIE WARSZAWY" OVER WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 24-25, FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS WILL IMPOSED IN POLAND EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 1973:

(A) FUEL CONSUMED BY ALL OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT VEHICLES, AS WELL AS BY VEHICLES BELONGING TO COLLECTIVES AND COOPS, WILL BE CUT BY ONE-THIRD OF MONTHLY AVERAGE USED DURING FIRST QUARTER OF 1973.

(B) MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND CHAIRMEN OF PRESIDIA OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS WILL INSTRUCT UNITS WHICH ARE ASSIGNED PASSENGER AUTOS ARE TO ELIMINATE AT LEAST TEN PERCENT OF THEIR VEHICLES BASED ON NUMBER OF VEHICLES ON THEIR BOOKS AS OF OCTOBER 31, 1973. TOTAL REDUCTION OF 1,500 VEHICLES IS PLANNED.

(C) SUNDAY AND HOLIDAY DRIVING BAN WILL BE ENFORCED AGAINST OFFICIAL VEHICLES, INCLUDING: CARS, TRUCKS WITH LOAD CAPACITY UP TO 1.5 TONS, AND BUSES DESIGNED TO CARRY FEWER THAN 15 PEOPLE. BAN DOES NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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APPLY TO DELIVERY VEHICLES USED IN CITIES FOR SUPPLYING THE PUBLIC.

(D) LENDING OF VEHICLES TO WORKERS BY ORGANIZATIONS IN SOCIALIZED SECTOR OF ECONOMY IS TO BE CUT BY 50 PERCENT OF THE AVERAGE FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 1973.

(EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND SCHOOL TRANSPORT ARE EXEMPTED FROM ABOVE CONTROLS)

3. IN ADDITION TO REDUCTIONS IN NUMBER AND USE OF OFFICIAL VEHICLES, NEW REGULATIONS ARE SAID TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON AIR AND BUS TRANSPORT. PRESS REPORTS NOTE THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE DESIGNED TO AVOID ANY "SUBSTANTIAL"

IMPACT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, BUT HAVE NOT OFFERED DETAILS.

4. MAXIMUM SPEEDS FOR ALL CLASSES OF VEHICLES (PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL) WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED DEC. 1. FOR VEHICLES UP TO 2.5 TONS, THE MAXIMUM WILL BE 70KM/HR, AND 80KM/HR FOR ALL AUTOS.

5. PENALTY PRESCRIBED FOR INFRACTIONS AGAINST NEW RULES BY USERS OF OFFICIAL AUTOS IS IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF THE "VEHICLE POSITION", INCLUDING VEHICLE, ITS DRIVER, FUEL ALLOTMENT, PARTS, ETC.

6. PRESS ARTICLES CONCLUDE BY NOTING THAT INTERESTED MINISTRIES AND DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS WILL MEET SHORTLY TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR FURTHER LIMITING USE OF LIQUID FUELS, AND TO ADOPT NEW REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO REDUCE NUMBER OF AUTOS ASSIGNED TO SOCIALIZED SECTOR.

7. GOVT PRESS AGENCY (PAP) HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO "DRASTIC LIMITATIONS" IMPOSED BY WESTERN COUNTRIES ON ALL FORMS OF VEHICLE TRANSPORT INCLUDING PRIVATE AUTOS. POINTING OUT THAT THIS STEP HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN HERE, PAP NEVERTHELESS NOTES APPEAL MADE BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO PRIVATE VEHICLE OWNERS TO USE THEM ONLY WHEN IT IS ESSENTIAL. END UNCLASSIFIED

8. BEGIN COMMENT. ALONG WITH OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, POLAND WAS SERVED NOTICE BY USSR SEVERAL YEARS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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AGO THAT BEFORE LONG SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO SUPPLY POLAND'S RAPIDLY GROWING TOTAL POL REQUIREMENTS. POLES CONSEQUENTLY HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO LINE UP SUPPLEMENTARY CRUDE SUPPLIES FROM MIDDLE EAST SOURCES, AND NOW, WE UNDERSTAND, HAVE SUPPLY CONTRACTS WITH IRAN, IRAQ AND ALGERIA. (MAJOR NEW REFINERY BEING CONSTRUCTED BY SNAM-PROGETTI AT GDANSK FOR COMPLETION AT END OF 1975 IS TO BE SUPPLIED ENTIRELY BY WESTERN-SOURCE CRUDE UNDER LONG-TERM CONTRACT WITH BP) HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT AT MOST ONLY SMALL, INITIAL DELIVERIES OF NON-SOVIET CRUDE HAVE BEEN MADE THUS FAR AND THAT POLAND CURRENTLY REMAINS ALMOST TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON USSR FOR CRUDE OIL. OFFICIAL STATISTICS SHOW USSR AS SOLE EXPORTER TO POLAND IN 1972 OF CRUDE AND NATURAL GAS, WHILE 14 PERCENT OF IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (LUBRICANTS, ETC.) AND SYNTHETIC LIQUID FUELS WERE PURCHASED FROM WESTERN SOURCES, CHIEFLY WESTERN EUROPE.

9. AT OPENING CEREMONIES ON NOVEMBER 26 FOR DOW CHEMICAL'S NEW WARSAW OFFICE, EMBOFFS TALKED WITH POLISH FOREIGN TRADE

ENTERPRISE DEPUTY DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR PETROLEUM IMPORTS FROM WEST, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM BEIRUT. STATING HE WAS PLEASED BY NEW POLISH FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES SINCE THEY WOULD CREATE SOME BREATHING ROOM IN FUEL SUPPLY SITUATION, THE OFFICIAL INDICATED HE HAD BEEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO DISCUSS FURTHER SUPPLIES TO POLAND AND THAT INCREASED PRICES WERE IN THE OFFING. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUERY WHETHER THE PRICE OF SOV CRUDE TO POLAND WOULD RISE, OFFICIAL SAID PRICE IS FIXED ON LONG-TERM BASIS. HOWEVER, HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOVIET CRUDE EXPORTS WERE PART OF TOTAL PACKAGE, WHICH SEEMED TO LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY SOVS COULD REDUCE SUPPLIES OR REQUIRE INCREASED COMPENSATION IN SOME OTHER FORM WITHOUT VIOLATING LETTER OF COMMITMENT TO POLAND. (EARLIER, DOW OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT SOVIET SHIPMENTS OF FEEDSTOCKS WERE CONTINUING UNINTERRUPTED TO OTHERWISE HARD-PRESSED DOW CHEMICAL PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN THE NETHERLANDS, ALTHOUGH SOVS HAD DOUBLED THEIR PRICES.)

10. IN RECENT WEEKS POLISH MINISTRY OF MINING AND POWER OFFICIALS HAVE ALLUDED TO RISING WORLD PRICES AND INCREASED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ING DIFFICULTIES IN SECURING OIL AND NATURAL GAS IMPORTS, WHICH ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO OUR IMPRESSION -- NOW CONFIRMED BY THE NEW CONSERVATION MEASURES -- THAT POLAND IS GROWING INCREASINGLY WORRIED ABOUT ITS OIL AND GAS SUPPLIES. IT APPEARS POLAND'S CURRENT CONCERNS ARE RESULT OF THE SQUEEZE ON HER WESTERN EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS OF REFINED FUELS AND PRODUCTS AND POSSIBLE INABILITY TO REFINES SUFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION FUELS FROM SOVIET CRUDE OIL. END COMMENT
DAVIES

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BONN
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